GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1721
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS IN TAMIL NADU
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have applied for photo identity cards so far in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of persons who have been issued the cards till date;

(c) the reasons for delay in the issue of cards and the time by which the rest of the cards will be issued;

(d) the estimated expenditure incurred on this account; and

(e) the amount released to Tamil Nadu by the Government during 2003-04 and 2004-05 for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY)

(a) The Election Commission has informed that Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) is issued to persons registered in the electoral roll of the constituency in which he is ordinarily resident. No person is required to apply for EPIC.

(b) 3,50,26,156 electors, which is approximately 74.5% of the total electors of electoral roll revised w.r.t. 01-01-2004 as the qualifying date have been issued with EPIC so far.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that the reason for further slow progress is that M/s CMC Limited, the State Level Agency who is presently handling the EPIC Programme in Tamil Nadu has expressed its inability to execute the programme simultaneously in all the districts at the rate of Rs.9.79 per card to cover the residual voters of 1.64 crores approximately. It has been decided to implement the next phase of the EPIC Programme by `On-line` method and to float tenders for selecting the agencies for the purpose. The process of selecting the agencies is under way. It is the endeavour of the Commission to achieve the target of issuing the EPICs to all the electors enrolled in the electoral roll being revised w.r.t. 01-01-2005 as the qualifying date by the end of year 2005.

(d) A sum of Rs.39,23,57,000/- have been released to the State Government of Tamil Nadu as part of the Government of India`s share of the expenditure on the scheme of photo identity cards.

(e) A sum of Rs.1,26,74,000/- has been released to the State Government of Tamil Nadu during 2003-04 and 2004-05 for purpose of preparation of electors photo identity cards.